Now while we cannot but admit, that it is more important that we should have an abstract of any valuable discoveries in science, than that they should remain a sealed letter to the world, we are satisfied that brevity often occasions confusion, and that this method of treating an author, often makes him appear to assert dogmatically what he really advances with corroborative proof. Besides, the charms of style, the richness of illustrative criticism, the evidences of profound learning, all matters which make us appreciate more highly and stamp his observations with additional weight, almost always suffer an eclipse.

Such, we must confess, are the consequences of the translation to which our author has been subjected, for though in the main his opinions are correctly given, there are instances in which he is made to assert that which he does not intend to convey, and there are numerous errors of rendering, which are certainly evidences either of carelessness, or of ignorance of the spirit of the French language, on the part of the editor, as he calls himself. Now it is not in a spirit of hypercriticism that we make these remarks,—but because we have, in different places, seen laudatory notices of the translation itself—notices which it does not deserve —and we would bear our testimony against this careless manner of rendering authors responsible for opinions they never entertained, and which are very often the offspring of inattention and hurry in performing what is a matter of far more difficulty than is generally supposed.

We have long had it in our mind to make these remarks, and this occasion is the more readily embraced, because, although the translation is justly liable to them, there is a remark in the preface, not so intended by the translator, which might lead to the idea that M. Lallemand himself had authorized this version.

We must, in conclusion say, that our worthy friends the publishers, have not done justice to this work, either in the paper, or in its general appearance—for it deserved a good dress, the subject to which it relates being of such interest as to make the volume sought after. We would, indeed, advise every member of our profession to make himself master of its contents, and to place it on his shelves for reference, for, as we have said before, in the main the author's views and opinions are correctly given.

C. R. K.

Art. XXVIII.—*Medico-Botanical Catalogue of the Plants and Ferns of St. Johns, Berkly, South Carolina.* An Inaugural Thesis submitted to the Dean and Faculty of the Medical College of the State of South Carolina, for the Degree of M. D. By Francis Payne Porcher. Charleston, 1847: pp. 55, 8vo.

A Catalogue of the Medicinal Plants, Indigenous and Exotic, growing in the State of New York; with a brief account of their Composition and Medical Properties. By Charles A. Lee, M. D., Professor of Materia Medica in Geneva Medical College, and the University of Buffalo, &c. New York, 1848: pp. 64, 8vo.

These two publications show, that the long neglected study of our native plants is, as regards their medicinal properties and uses, now beginning to attract the attention of the profession in all parts of the United States, and we trust these little works will prove but the harbinger of others from all parts of our wide spread Union, giving the experience of the authors with the various vegetable productions of their immediate neighbourhoods. Whether this awakening of our medical brethren to the importance of the thorough knowledge of the remedial qualities of our indigenous productions, has arisen from the well-timed recommendation of the late Medical Convention held at Philadelphia, or has been the result of other causes, is of little importance; it is sufficient to know that it has taken place, and we look forward with much hope to the future, when this new spirit of inquiry will be more fully developed, and more widely spread, for vast and valueless results. From the few and imperfect notices of the virtues and compositions of the articles of our native materia medica, it must be evident that we possess equivalents for almost every article of foreign origin, and we trust the time will arrive, when we shall cease to be dependent on extraneous sources for our *apparatus medicaminum.*

There is not much that is new in these two publicotions, as they are both compilations from works already in the hands of the profession, hut ot the same time both conlain interesting facts in relation to some of the articles that ore new, and worthy of remembrance. That of Dr. Lee, as might be expected from his experieoce as a writer, is by far the most judicious in its arrangement ond in the skill which is disployed in its execution; at the same time it must he fully conceded that the essay of Dr. Porcher affords evidence of much ialent and industry in so young o member of the profession, and fully merits the award of the committee appointed by the Faculty of his alma mater, to select from among the theses that most worthy of publication. In some points he has done hetter than Dr. Lee—in the copiousness of his references, and in the catalogue of plants he has prefixed to his essay. Dr. Lee has orranged his work according to the natural orders as given by Dr. Torrey, in his "Flora of the Slote of Yew York," to which this essay forms an excellent accompaniment.

Dr. Porcher has adopted an alphabeticol arraogement, which has the disadvontage of separating plants closely allied io character and properties, widely from each other. Both treatises, as we before said, are creditable to the authors, and deserve the attention of the profession. R. E. G.

Art. XXIX.—*Principles of Physics and Meteorology.* By J. Moller, Professor of Physics in the University of Frieburgh. First American edilion. Revised and illostrated with 538 engravings on wood, and two coloured plates. Philadelphia, Lea & Blanchard, 1848.

The space at our command allows us to do little more than announce the publicatioo of this volome, and to invite the attention of the profession to it. An acqoaiotance with Natural Philosophy, Chemistry, and the ose of the Microscope, are essential to a koowledge of medicine in its present advanced condition. and the student who neglects these preliminary studies, need not hope tn be oble to apprehend the fundamental branches of our science—anatomy, physiolngy, and pathology.

We must oot omit to notice the profusion of beaotifol illustrations in this vnlume, and the style of elegance, indeed, luxury, io which it is got up—altogether unusual in works of this description.

Art. XXX.—*The Natural History and Diseases of the Human Teeth.*—By Joseph Fox, M. R. C. S. L., &c. First American, from the third London edition. Remodelled, with an introduction and numerous additions, by Chapin A. Harris, M. D. D. D. S., Professor of Practical Dentistry and Dental Pathology in the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery, &c. &c. Illustrated with thirty plates. Philadelphia: Ed. Barrington and Geo. D. Haswell, 1846.

Although upwards of forty years have elapsed since the first appearance of this work, during which period dental surgery has made great advaoces, it still occopies a high place io the literature of this department of medicine.

The editor, in preparing it for publicatioo, has made numerous aod extensive additions, supplying such details of subsequent improvemeots in practice, as the present state of the science and ort seemed to demand.